

American people and congressional Democrats who do not want to see taxpayer dollars wasted in Iraq any longer.

#### SUPPORT TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on Tax Day 2008 in strong support of H.R. 5719, the Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act. I commend Chairman RANGEL and Ranking Member MCCREY for bringing this bill to the floor and working hard to simplify our tax policies.

Today's Tax Code has become so complex that it takes more than 25 hours to complete an itemized tax return. That is an hour longer than 2003, and 10 hours longer other than 1989.

Families will benefit significantly from this legislation which strengthens identity theft and tax fraud protections, stops taxpayer harassment by ending the private collection of Federal taxes, and expands tax refund assistance for low-income Americans.

I am also pleased that the provisions in the Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act increase online fraud security and allows individuals to have better recourse in the event of a crime.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5719.

#### AMERICANS ASK: WHY IS BUSH SPENDING BILLIONS IN IRAQ

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, today, Tax Day, millions of Americans know that their tax dollars will support rebuilding Iraq instead of rebuilding America. Americans have already spent \$44 billion in rebuilding Iraq at a time when the Iraqis have a huge oil revenue reserve.

Today, taxpayers may be wondering how this money could be spent in Iraq, our money, instead of rebuilding the U.S.A. With the \$339 million that we are spending daily in Iraq, we could instead provide an additional 18,000 American students with Pell Grants so they can attend college. We could also hire and keep 4,400 "COPS on the beat." Our moneys could be used, if we spent them here, to have 2,000 more border guard agents to protect our borders.

Madam Speaker, as Americans pay their taxes today, they have a right to know why billions are being spent each month in Iraq instead of here in the U.S.A.

#### DEMOCRATS' FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE BUDGET

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, House Democrats' fiscally irresponsible budget will impose on American workers and businesses a \$683 billion tax hike, the largest in U.S. history.

With our economy slowing and many families losing their homes, the last thing Congress needs to do is to take more money from these hardworking Americans. Tax relief, not a tax increase, is the best stimulant to our economy. Socking 116 million Americans with an average tax hike of over \$1,800 is an irresponsible fiscal strategy.

Working families would be hit especially hard by the Democrats' irresponsibility. A family of four with two children that currently earns \$50,000 annually would have to pay an additional \$2,155 in taxes under the Democrats' plan. That would amount to a 191 percent increase in their tax bill.

The last thing our economy needs right now is the largest tax increase in history. House Republicans are dedicated to protecting working families, investors, and small businesses from the irresponsible tax hike that is being foisted upon us.

#### TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, my friend, the colleague who spoke just before me, was mentioning a fictitious tax increase. I want people to know that such a thing does not in fact exist, and I would be curious to see which law it is.

In the meanwhile, there is no better day than today, April 15, to talk about the commitment this Congress has made to the American people to ensure that the Tax Code becomes fairer and simpler for middle class families.

We must be consistent and make the Tax Code more helpful to families by prioritizing middle class tax relief, including the child tax credit, relief from the marriage penalty, and preserving our lowest tax brackets.

We must also commit to making sure our tax dollars are spent wisely. The average family pays over \$13,000 in Federal taxes; they deserve to get their money's worth.

For that to happen, we must preserve fiscal discipline, as this Congress has done by reinstating the pay-as-you-go rules, PAYGO, meaning we only spend as much money as we have and we do not increase the deficit for our children and grandchildren. And we must prioritize important spending such as health care, education, and our national infrastructure.

#### WHY IS BUSH SPENDING BILLIONS IN IRAQ

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, as our constituents put the finishing touches on their tax returns, many of them are probably wondering just how much we will be sending to Iraq.

Taxpayers are rightfully outraged, as are many Members of this body, by the massive levels of waste, fraud and corruption documented in large government contracts to well-connected firms. Under the Bush administration, the use of no-bid contracts has doubled and the Defense Contract Audit Agency believes that \$10 billion of the taxpayers' money has been spent on questionable or unsupported costs in Iraq contracts.

Madam Speaker, House Democrats are bringing much-needed accountability to the government contracting business by cracking down on no-bid contracts, protecting Federal whistleblowers, and withholding Federal contracts from tax-delinquent companies.

While Democrats would like to see a change of policy in Iraq, we, like the average taxpayer, want to prevent our money from being wasted. We are taking the steps necessary to ensure that no longer happens.

#### ON TAX DAY, WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, today is Tax Day and everyone in America is asking the question: Whose side are you on?

Well, I am on the side of Wisconsin taxpayers, and my record proves it. I have kept my word.

In September of 2006, I stated we should do two things: First, balance our Federal budget here in Washington like people do back home; and, second, to reduce taxes for middle class families.

We have kept our word. And like other Democrats, I voted to cut taxes and balance our Federal budget. We saved 62,000 households in the Eighth District of Wisconsin from paying the AMT tax; for tax deductions for health care expenses and property taxes; we voted to cut taxes for small businesses and S corporations; and we are trying to make mortgage payments deductible for everyone, whether you itemize or do not.

We also voted to close tax loopholes that encourage our jobs to be shipped overseas. We are on the side of the taxpayers. My record proves it. Today is Tax Day. Whose side is your representative on?

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas